



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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Public Information Release

Central Region Office
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Juab County Trophy Deer Poaching Case Brought to Completion

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Juab County -

Utah residents Shawn Petersen and Barry Atkinson recently pleaded no contest to poaching charges stemming from an incident that occurred in 2008.

The investigation was initiated when conservation officers with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources received information through the UTiP hotline. Officers determined that Petersen had legally acquired a limited entry permit for the Vernon deer unit that year. During the course of the hunt, Petersen who was accompanied by Atkinson, located a trophy four-point buck. Unable to harvest the trophy despite several attempts, the two returned to the area after sunset in an effort to locate the animal with a spotlight.

The deer was eventually located and shot by Peterson while illuminated with the light, in violation of Utah Code 23-20-4, Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife. The buck's antlers measured 29 inches wide, making it a trophy by state definition.

On May 10 2011, Petersen and Atkinson appeared in Fourth District Court in Nephi, Utah. Both men pleaded no contest to Class A Misdemeanors. In addition to court-levied fines, they were ordered to pay \$8000.00 restitution for the trophy animal. Both individuals now face a potential ten-year suspension of their big game hunting privileges in Utah and all participating Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact States.

Poaching is a crime that affects present and future generations of Utahns. Anyone witnessing a wildlife crime is encouraged to call the UTiP Hotline immediately. Caller confidentiality is respected and rewards are available. Turn in a poacher; 1-800-662-3337.



Officer Rhea displays trophy deer killed illegally on the Vernon Unit



Trophy deer killed on the Vernon Limited Entry Deer Unit, Juab County

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